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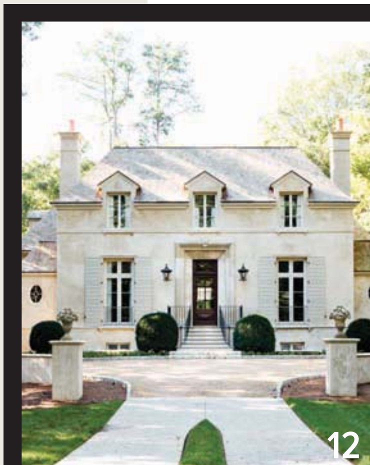
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ISSUE NO. 273 | VOLUME 28, NO. 12

















homes

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life

IN EVERY ISSUE

WELCOME



(on the cover)

Designer Bob Brown crafts a colorful sitting area at a condominium at The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Atlanta, Buckhead. Photographed by Erica George Dines on September 10, 2009.

LATELY, luxury has become hard to define. To me, it's never been about glitz and glamour. It's been more about quality and value—and putting a value on what *really* matters. This month's issue recasts luxury on several fronts. One story shows us that there's great comfort found in classical architecture; another exemplifies the virtues of color. Good design may not be inexpensive, but whether it's classic or contemporary, it's lasting. And during times when every penny matters, that's what's important. Money aside, our entertaining story may be the ultimate in luxury—good friends cooking together in the kitchen and sharing stories. What more could you ask for?

Smith

Clinton Smith
Editorial Director
twitter.com/

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Go behind the scenes with photographer Erica George Dines



On location for the debut of the John Portman exhibit at the High

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Our Editorial Director shares his local design discoveries and style secrets—in real time.

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STYLE

(architecture)

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ERICA GEORGE DINES

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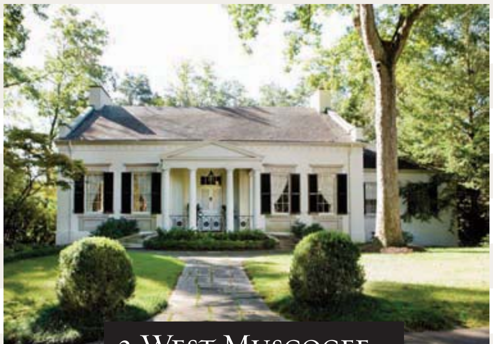


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330 Argonne



57 Lakeview



353 Peachtree Battle

(web)

See more inspiring architecture at AtlantaHomesMag.com



376 Peachtree Battle



22 Chatham

STYLE

(design)

PRODUCED BY
HEATHER J. PAPER


Mimi Williams

YELLOW FEVER "Mimi William's all-white bedroom at her mountain home was not only my favorite room, but also my favorite cover this year. The yellow accents add a little contrast and character while still keeping things simple and light. I could curl up under those sheets for a midday nap in the sunshine and be so happy!" — *Rachel Cardina Lasserre*

STATELY STYLE "Equally sophisticated and serene, this library designed by Stan Topol is the perfect space for an avid reader like me to cozy up with a good novel." — *Sejal Bhima*

EASY ELEGANCE "No one does layers of softness like Phoebe Howard. Quality, custom linens and a light, soft, neutral palette create a cozy cocoon of a room that is just what the doctor ordered on a cold winter morning. Artwork and collected objects make the look even more personal, which is another thing Mrs. Howard does to a 'T.'" — *Kate Abney*


Stan Topol


Phoebe Howard

THE LUXURY OF

inspiration

A ROUNDUP OF OUR FAVORITE ROOMS FROM THE PAST YEAR

9 in '09



Walker Residence



Keith Summerour



John Oetgen

PERSONAL STYLE "The minute I stepped into Katie and Ian Walker's home, I was overwhelmed with inspiration; it truly reflects their distinct style. I completely fell for the insanely wonderful mix of styles, textures, colors and patterns—and I adore Katie's refined attention to detail!" *— Rachel Cardina Lasserre*

RUSTIC & CHIC "This kitchen, quite simply, tugs at my heartstrings. I love how Keith Summerour designed a wraparound porch for his own Towerhouse, then filled in one side to create this rustic-but-refined space. I could eat here, work here, spend every waking moment here." *— Heather J. Paper*

POP PERFECT "I wish you could bottle the impeccable taste of John Oetgen. He's a master of the mix, proven once again in his own home, where Warner Panton chairs sidle up to a 19th-century version of a Louis XVI canapé. It's the epitome of simple-but-smashing!" *— Heather J. Paper*

9 in '09



Margaret Bosbyshell

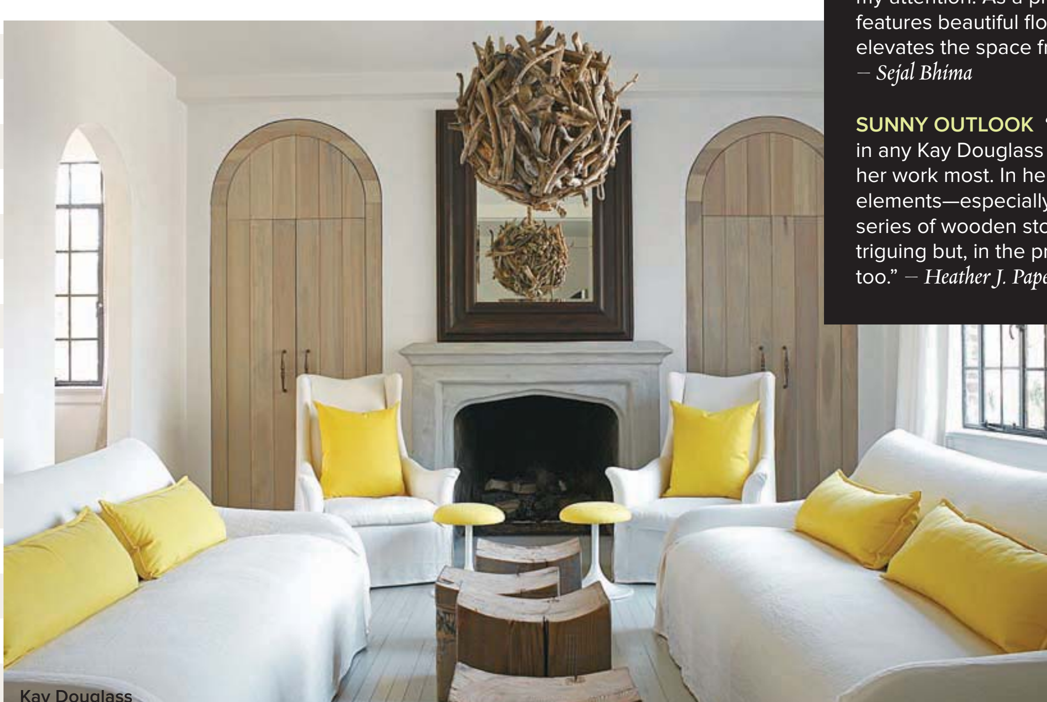


Shon Parker

BRIGHT & BOLD "I'm so taken with this guest bedroom by Margaret Bosbyshell because it's so fresh! A soft coverlet and vivid pops of green just remind me of spring, while the ornate wallpaper, touches of Chinoiserie and gold make this room grounded and classic at the same time." – *Kate Abney*

A NEW MIX "Fresh, clean-lined designs always grab my attention. As a plus, this bathroom by Shon Parker features beautiful floor-to-ceiling wood paneling that elevates the space from simple to striking." – *Sejal Bhima*

SUNNY OUTLOOK "I expect to find the unexpected in any Kay Douglass design, which is what I love about her work most. In her own living room, *au natural* elements—especially the pendant light fixture and a series of wooden stools—not only make it more intriguing but, in the process, more laidback and livable, too." – *Heather J. Paper*



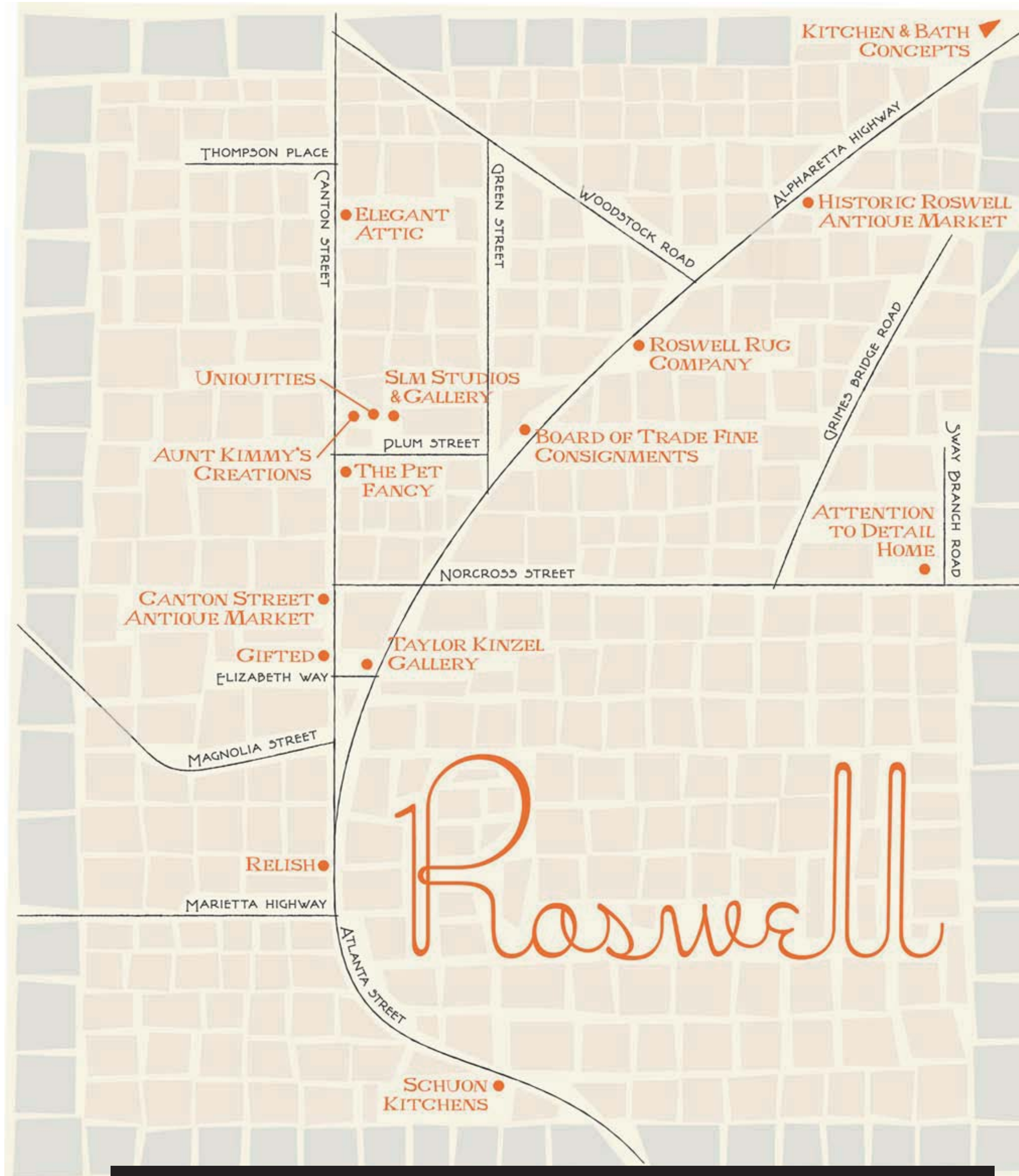
Kay Douglass

(shopping)

PRODUCED BY
RACHEL CARDINA LASSERRE

PHOTOGRAPHED BY
DAVID CHRISTENSEN

ILLUSTRATION BY
MICHAEL NEWHOUSE



You'll find more than just restaurants and gift shops in the heart of Roswell, as this picturesque locale is quickly becoming a go-to home and design destination. Make the drive just north of Atlanta and you'll discover antique markets, art galleries and design showrooms alongside charming bakeries and pet boutiques—all with friendly shop owners eager to welcome you.



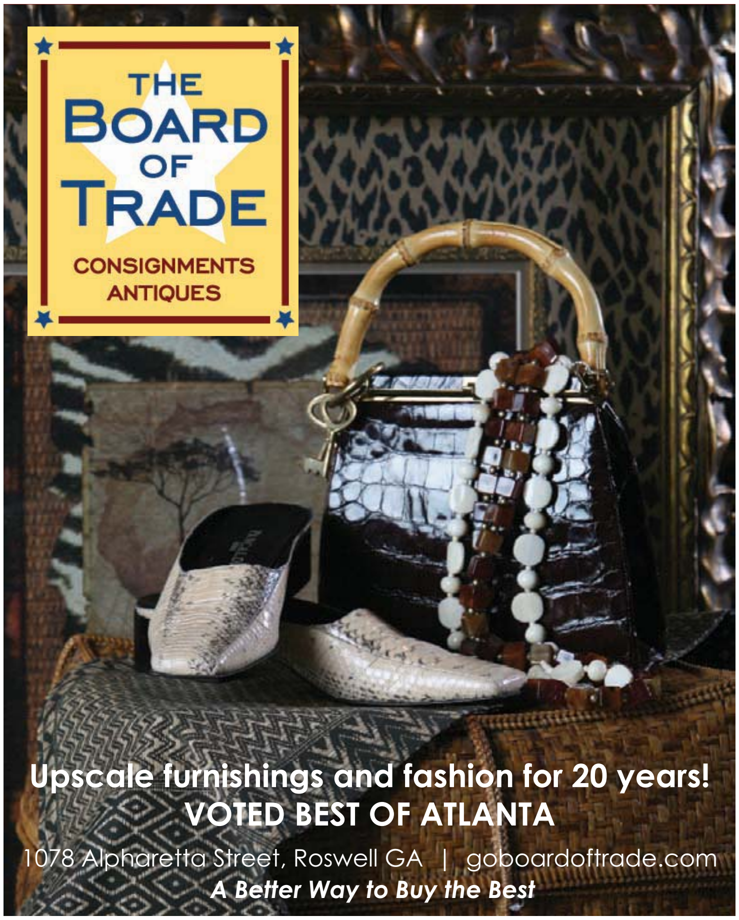


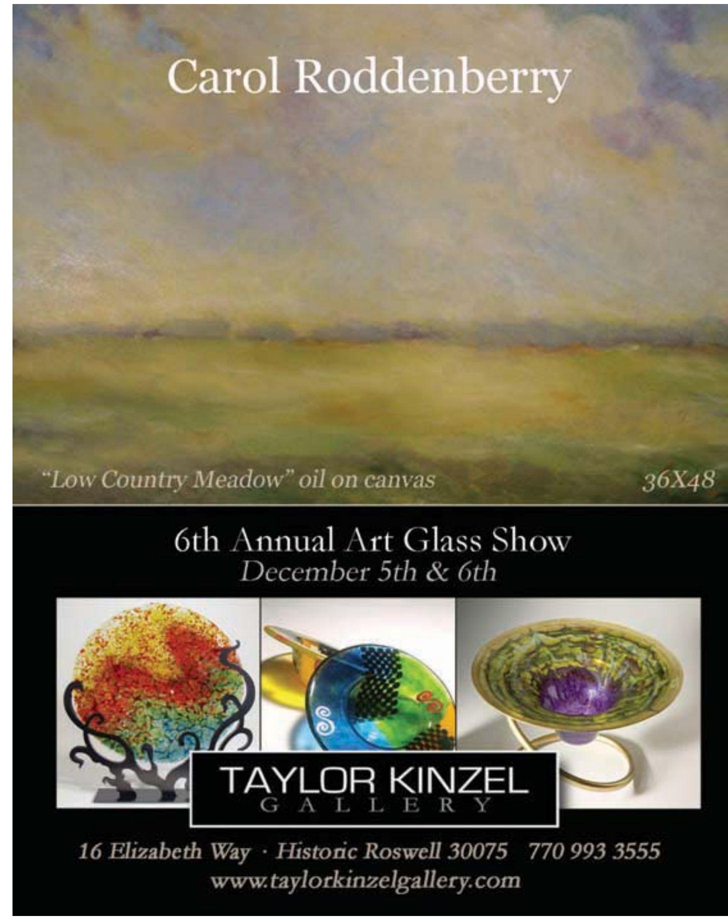
→ ROSWELL RUG COMPANY
1101 Alpharetta St.
(770) 993-9936; roswellrug.com
Because new area rugs have been the specialty of the Roswell Rug Company for more than 15 years, the staff here knows their stuff. They've built up a devoted client base in their Historic Roswell neighborhood by selling every type of area rug from all over the world—think India, China, Turkey and Afghanistan. Whether you're looking for something handmade, machine-woven or as simple as sisal, this 4,000-square-foot showroom will have something to fit both your budget and your décor. If your area rugs need cleaning, or you need a stair runner installed, Roswell Rug Company offers those services, too.

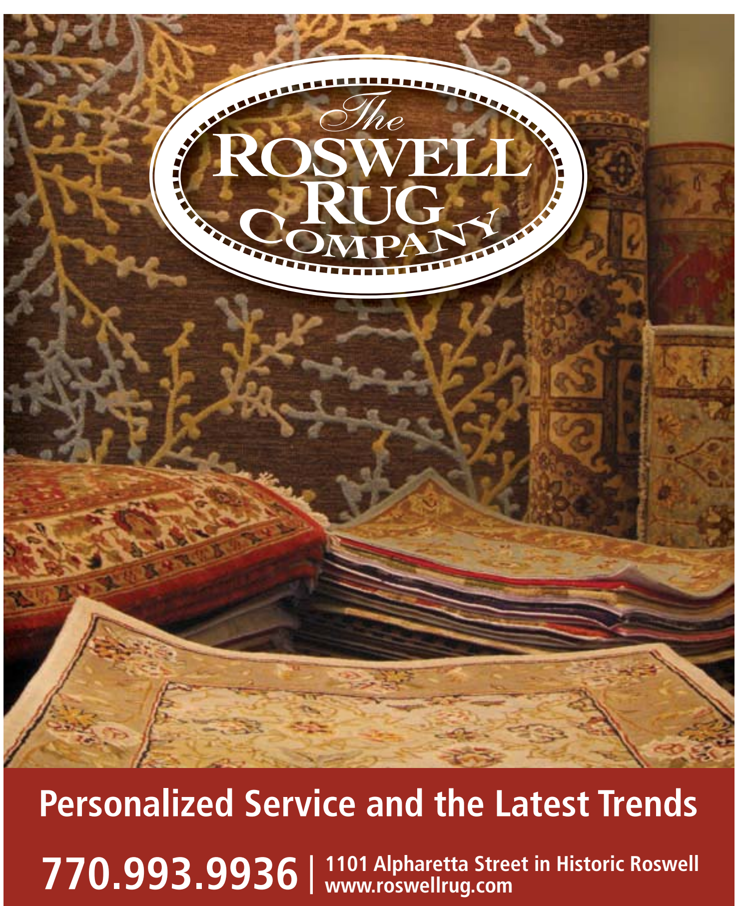
↑ ELEGANT ATTIC
1105 Canton St., (678) 261-7988; elegantattic.com
The unique pieces you'll find at Elegant Attic can't be found anywhere else. And that's exactly the way owner Nora Maccaro likes it. Before she opened the shop more than three years ago, she and her business partner traveled to countries like Italy and Guatemala to find one-of-a-kind treasures. Since then, they've also become the exclusive dealer for home furnishings lines such as Sticks, and they feature local products that include jams and soaps. But Elegant Attic also sets itself apart in other ways: There's a master gardener on staff, the building features a conservatory for elegant events and they even plant their own garden out back.



← CANTON STREET ANTIQUE MARKET
970 Canton St., (770) 518-7860; cantonstreetantiquemarket.com
Proclaimed the hub of the Historic Roswell District due to its centralized location, Canton Street Antique Market offers a bevy of wonderful and unique finds. Owners Royce Haley and Byron Hamilton host over 60 dealers in just under 16,000 square feet. Visitors can peruse an array of antiques, home décor, rugs, collegiate collectibles and custom jewelry at a variety of price points. Especially popular are booths featuring Trapp Candles' aromatic scents and intricate jewelry by locally acclaimed artist Debra Farley.


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↑ GIFTED! ARTIST MARKET & GIFT BOUTIQUE
944 Canton St.
(678) 585-0071; giftedmarket.com
It's nearly impossible to walk out of Gifted! without something new for your home. Taking a cue from her favorite pastime, owner Debbie Rogers models her store after a craft show where an evolving selection of handmade garden art, hostess gifts, jewelry, scarves, ceramics, wall art and other home accents are available. Each item is hand-picked by Rogers as she keeps an eye out for unique gift items that not only fit the fun atmosphere of her store but are meaningful, too. And don't miss the boutique's area of stylish repurposed goods.

← RELISH
590 Mimosa Blvd.
(770) 650-7877; relishgoodfood.com
After cutting his teeth at the Culinary Institute of America and Chez Panisse, then building a reputation in San Francisco, Relish owner and executive chef Andy Badgett relocated to Roswell, where today he serves modern Southern comfort cuisine in a casual atmosphere. An evolution from his first Roswell restaurant, Fickle Pickle—where Food Network luminary Alton Brown has been known to enjoy his favorite regional appetizer, the fried pickle—Relish entertains the raves with its famous pimento cheese fritters, stellar Sunday brunch menu and heavenly Krispy Kreme bread pudding. The adjacent gourmet food and wine shop, All Y'all, sells the packaged version of this favorite dessert along with select wines and other delicacies.

↑ KITCHEN & BATH CONCEPTS
11444 Alpharetta Hwy.
(770) 442-9845; kitchenandbathconcepts.com
Over the past two decades, Kitchen & Bath Concepts has established itself as the premier kitchen and bath showroom in Roswell—and a major player in the Atlanta market, too. They frequently win *Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles*' juried kitchen and bath contests as well as national NKBA competitions. The certified team of designers comprises owner/president Jim Meloy, his wife, Sara, plus Courtney Foster and Courtney Rogers. The full-service design/build company offers upfront consultations and 5,000 square feet of showroom space packed with model kitchens and baths from a variety of vendors, providing myriad customization options for their clients. Stop in to find appliances from Sub-Zero/WOLF and KitchenAid; countertops that include granite, marble, quartz, soapstone, and exotic woods—even a green cabinetry line from Robin Wilson Home and furniture-style vanities from Sage Hill, Vanity Flair and Kaco. Their designs aren't limited to kitchens and baths, either; this team also creates integrated cabinetry for media centers, home offices and more.apart.







↑ HISTORIC ROSWELL ANTIQUE MARKET

1207 Alpharetta St., Suite C, (770) 587-5259; roswellantiques.com

Referred to as simply "the Market," this 15,000-square-foot shop is a one-stop haven for anyone looking for unique pieces. Impressive displays of antique French, English and American furniture—plus extraordinary selections of fine art, estate jewelry, vintage lighting, porcelain, garden statuary, Oriental rugs and sterling—fill "the Market." Shoppers are all but guaranteed to find exactly what they desire. In addition, you can cap off a day of shopping with delicious homemade fare in the "Market Café."



↑ TAYLOR KINZEL GALLERY

16 Elizabeth Way

(770) 993-3555; taylorkinzel.com

Specializing in original artwork by Southern artists along the eastern seaboard—including internationally known names such as painter Bob Ichter, pastel artist Greg Osterhaus, sculptor Robert Kelly and glass artist Brenda Griffith—Taylor Kinzel Gallery co-owners Mary Kinzel and Patrick Taylor both boast strong art backgrounds. They've been in their current historic Roswell location for seven years, where they offer a wide range of bronze and glass sculptures, paintings, ceramics, mixed-media, oils, pastels, watercolors and more. Plus there's an exceptional variety of art glass—perhaps one of the best and most affordable in the metro area—with prices ranging from $50 up to $10,000. Every year, on the first weekend of December, Taylor Kinzel hosts an art glass open house, too.

← SCHUON KITCHENS & BATHS INC.

292 South Atlanta St., Suite A

(770) 643-9000; schuonkitchens.com

Over the past 30 years, Schuon Kitchens & Baths has built its reputation on superior design, craftsmanship and service. Dedicated to quality, owners Hans Schuon and Emily Robbins—along with their professionally certified staff—work with five of the finest cabinet lines available. Running the gamut from affordable to ultra high-end, cabinetry can be manufactured in just about every style and color combination. Serving both new construction and remodeling projects, Schuon Kitchens & Baths can be found both in Roswell and their new Inman Park showroom.

↑ ATTENTION TO DETAIL HOME

10170 Swaybranch Dr.

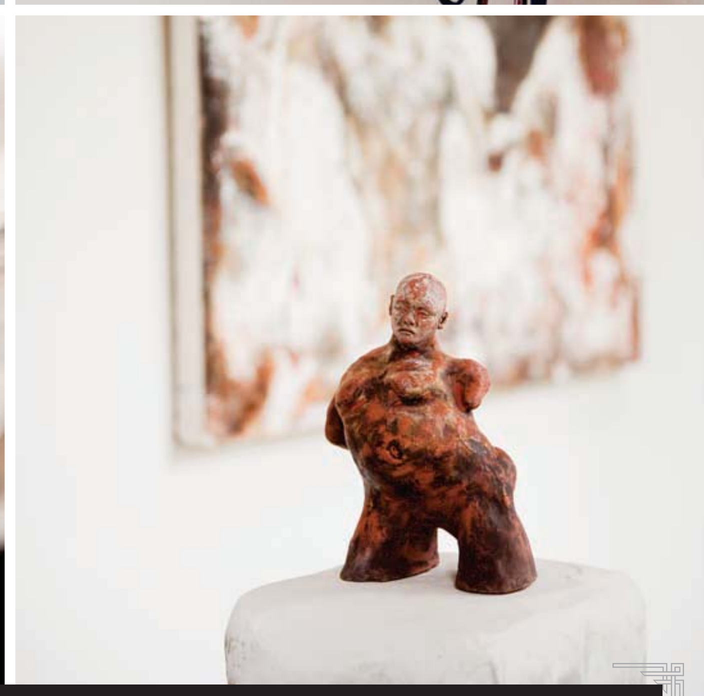
(770) 649-7743; atdremodel.com

For true gourmands and home cooks alike, new technology in the kitchen makes cooking, storage and cleaning a breeze. Think disappearing electrical outlets and vent hoods, fully extendable drawers strong enough to hold all of your pots and pans, easy access to cabinet corners, ample counter space and multi-person prep areas. These are just a few of the things the team at Attention to Detail Home Remodeling—helmed by licensed contractor and principal designer David Sturm—offers to clients. Keeping style, functionality and individuality in mind to create superb bathrooms, kitchens and more, this company's services are always tailored to customer specifications from consultation and concept, to completion.





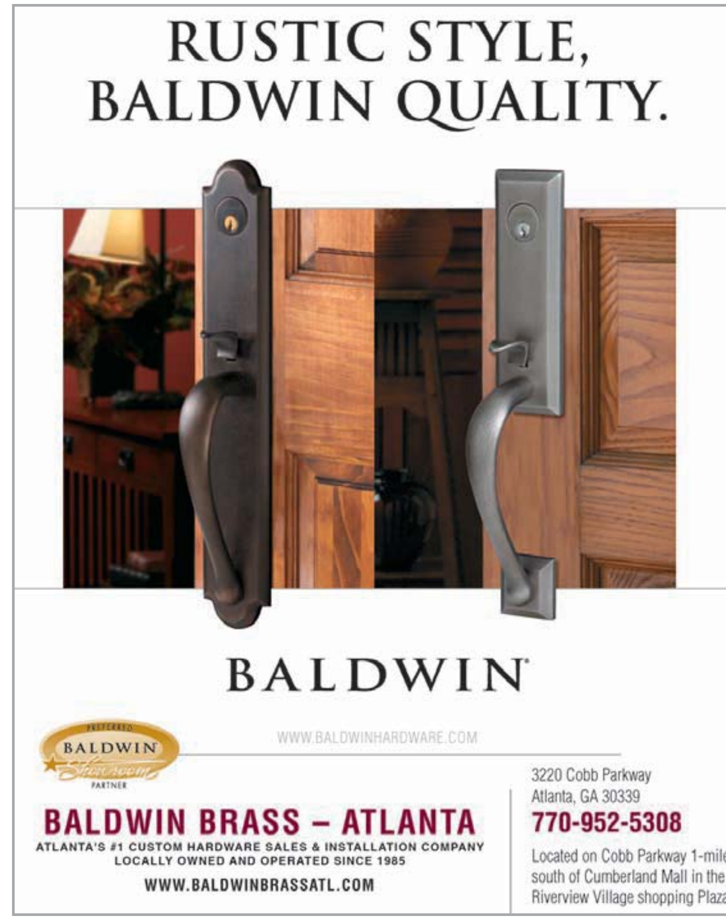




↑ **PLUM TREE VILLAGE**
1035 - 1065 Canton St., (770) 992-1200
Head to Plum Tree Village, a pedestrian-friendly retail area with charming historical buildings filled with galleries, shops and boutiques. **UNIQUITIES** *(1055 Canton St., Suite 100, 770-998-5557)*, known for its Old World flair, has been one of Roswell's favorite home furnishings and gift shops for the past seven years. The owners offer custom furniture and design services and annually participate in the Roswell Showcase Home Tour. The **PET FANCY BOUTIQUE** *(1045 Canton St., 678-522-3758; thepetfancy.com)* features unique and specialty gifts, as well as all-natural pet foods for your four-legged family members, while **AUNT KIMMY'S CREATIONS** *(1055 Canton St., Suite 110, 770-992-7774; auntkimmyscreations.com)* offers gourmet goodies like cookies, brownies, breads and candy sure to satisfy anyone with a sweet tooth. And don't miss **SLM STUDIO/GALLERY** *(1065 Canton St., 770-587-0978; sandramilton.com)*, where artist Sandra Milton displays her own contemporary paintings and sculptures, as well as those of visiting artists.



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STYLE

(shopping)

PRODUCED BY
RACHEL CARDINA LASSERRE

PHOTOGRAPHED BY
DAVID CHRISTENSEN



↓ HEIRLOOM IRON BED AND FINE LINENS
56 East Andrews Dr., Suite 32, (404) 352-3132; heirloomironbed.com
For over a decade, Heirloom Iron Bed and Fine Linens has brought luxury Italian, German, Austrian, French and American linens to the Atlanta area, from weavers such as Anichini, Ann Gish, Legna, Matouk, Pine Cone Hill, Peacock Alley, Serena & Lily, Sferra, Sontuoso, The Purists, Yves Delorme and Zoeppritz. The store also offers Italian mattelasés, Egyptian cottons and rich silks, as well as beautiful custom iron and brass beds, home accessories, bath and lounge wear. The two locations—one in Buckhead and a second in Roswell—make it Atlanta's largest custom-order fine linens store. The professionally-certified staff offers in-house design services to help customers create a chic custom look for their home, a valuable advantage for people about to invest in fine linens. To celebrate the brand's 15-year anniversary, both locations will be offering special promotions throughout all of the upcoming year.

↑ INTERIOR PHILOSOPHY
4411 Roswell Rd., (404) 851-0047; interiorphilosophy.com
If you want your bedding to be as individual as you are, head over to Interior Philosophy in Buckhead. This store carries the Legacy Home linens line, which is completely customizable. You can specify special trims, mix various fabrics, and even add monogramming and embroidery, then have coordinating throw pillows designed. Interior Philosophy also carries iron beds that can be ordered in custom finishes and designs. The bottom line: You can have a well-dressed bed that's made for you alone.



Linens

Atlanta's wealth of home and design boutiques carry some of the finest linens you'll find. From contemporary to classic patterns—and available in just about every conceivable color—linens are a luxurious way to give your beds and baths, windows and tabletops fabulous personal flair.



→ KATHRYN LEACH HOME
2860 Piedmont Rd., Suite C
(404) 231-9233
Renowned Atlanta Interior Designer Kathryn Leach has manifested her vision of beauty into an exclusive and elegant boutique with its distinctive atmosphere being both inviting and warm. Everyday living claims its right to indulge in the refinement of the unique and timeless companies revealed throughout the space. The boutique, with its distinguished look, evokes time-honored tradition while engaging you on a journey that explores the senses. The cleanness of subtle candle scents and the welcoming and attractive designs of this company's fine bed linens unquestionably express harmony, serenity and individuality.



↑ ERIKA READE LTD.
3732 Roswell Rd. NW, Atlanta 30342, (404) 233-3857; erikareade.com
Twenty-three years after opening on Roswell Road, Erika Reade Ltd. still stands apart for its exceptional selection of linens, including mattelassé coverlets, quilts and more. As a result, this shop has become the go-to source for designers looking for solid linen basics upon which to build—or the discriminating homeowner outfitting a bedroom. A wide range of thread counts and practical price points keep the offerings diverse, with standout vendors Pinecone Hill, Peacock Alley, Chez M'Lain, Matouk and Sferra adding to the assortment. Plus, the shop carries an impressive selection of giftware, including Simon Pearce glassware, Match pewter and Juliska dinnerware.

↓ PIERRE DEUX
721 Miami Cir. Suite, 107, (404) 264-0556; pierredeux.com
A wildly popular store in Miami Circle, Pierre Deux specializes in French-inspired pieces. Here you'll find an exclusive line of fabrics made in France that can be used to create custom bedding, duvet covers, pillows and window treatments. All fabrics are printed on linen and cotton, which lends body and texture to the cloth. And because multiple screens are used in the printing process, Pierre Deux's prints are known for their vibrant color and clarity, too.





← GRAMERCY HOME
2351 Peachtree Rd., Suite A
(404) 846-9244; shopgramercy.com
Business partners Jenny Taubel and Cam Reynolds opened Gramercy Home nearly two years ago because they wanted to fill a need in Atlanta, offering a mix of classic and contemporary chic linens. Their uber-stylish store features crisp and coordinated bedding, towels and table linens from brands such as Matouk, Chez M'Lain, Sferra, Ferran, Ann Gish and Peacock Alley. Any of the linens purchased at Gramercy Home can be customized in the store's monogramming department. Monograms are available in a wide variety of styles, colors and sizes, or the staff can design one just for you.





↑ BONJOUR/SCHLOSSBERG
(877) 266-7948; schlossbergusa.com
Bonjour of Switzerland is a mill that fashions jacquard and sateen woven fabrics into exceptional, high-thread-count bed linens. Their soft furnishings have been available via mail order for more than 135 years, and today Bonjour features new collections every six months. Micro modal is one of the company's new linen products; made of beechwood pulp, it's extremely soft and wicks away moisture, too. And because it doesn't require chemicals to hold the fibers together, the cotton is less stressed, resulting in a product that's very absorbent, making it ideal for towels, napkins and other table linens.

↑ BELLE CHAMBRE
318 Pharr Rd. NE, Atlanta 30305, (404) 816-5333; bellechambre.com
CeCe Easter has been sharing her passion for luxury linens with discerning clients for over 17 years. Her well-edited collection focuses on classic designs with a modern sensibility, that creating a timeless look for contemporary or traditional customers, not following trends that fall out of favor quickly. Belle Chambre has earned a reputation of one of the most respected sources for bedding in the country. An expertly trained staff, most with design backgrounds, work very closely with each customer to create one-of-a-kind designs. Exclusive embroideries in over 600 designs and an endless color palette are joined by a large selection of apothecary soaps, lotions, sleepwear, bathroom accessories and gifts. The collection espouses an entire lifestyle experience for the bed, bath, and table, which Easter believes enhance the personal style of a comforting home.



← MCCALL WILDER DESIGNS
110 East Andrews Dr., Suite 3, (404) 841-9263; mccallwilder.com
You might know McCall Wilder for her precious handmade children's clothes, but she also prides herself on creating exquisite baby and children's linens you simply can't find anywhere else. The Buckhead store specializes in hand monogramming and hand embroidery, and features only sustainable fabrics like real European linen that is "as soft as butter." Everything is completely custom, which means pillows are available in any size, and crib skirts, bumpers, bed linens and receiving blankets can be embellished in your choice of colors and trims.

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>> CAFÉ INTERMEZZO OFFERS MORE THAN A DOZEN COFFEES AND HOT CHOCOLATES WITH A KICK—FROM A SIMPLE IRISH BLEND TO THE MOUTH-WATERING PRONTO DOMNAI, WHICH BOASTS IRISH CREAM, BUTTERNUT SCHNAPPS AND HAZELNUT LIQUOR. *1845 PEACHTREE RD., ATLANTA 30309. (404) 355-0411; CAFEINTERMEZZO.COM*

>> RESTAURANT EUGENE'S BAR MANAGER, NICK HEARIN, HAS CREATED A SIGNATURE SOUTHERN TODDY WITH WILLETT POT STILL RESERVE BOURBON, FRESH-BREWED TEA, CRUSHED ROASTED PEANUTS, LEMON JUICE AND SORGHUM. *2277 PEACHTREE RD., ATLANTA 30309. (404) 355-0321; RESTAURANTEUGENE.COM*

(web)

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SEASONAL DELIGHT

(chestnut)

Evoking memories of Nat King Cole crooning "The Christmas Song," the chestnut inspires holiday warmth and flavors tasty dishes that Atlanta chefs have made staples on their winter menus.

>> RATHBUN'S SERVES UP BRAISED PORK CHEEKS WITH ROASTED CHESTNUT BUTTER, GARNISHED WITH ORANGE ZEST FOR A LIVELY MIX OF FLAVORS. *112 KROG ST.., SUITE R, ATLANTA 30307. (404) 524-8280; RATHBUNSRESTUARANT.COM*

>> 4TH & SWIFT OFFERS A ROASTED GAME HEN SERVED ALONGSIDE A FESTIVE CHESTNUT-AND-BRIOCHE DRESSING. *621 NORTH AVE. NE, ATLANTA 30308. (678) 904-0164; FOUTHANDSWIFT.COM*

>> JOEL BRASSERIE'S WINTRY RENDITION OF DUCK IS SERVED WITH A SAVORY SURROUND OF HOUSE-MADE CHESTNUT-RICOTTA RAVIOLI, FINISHED WITH A RICH DUCK AU JUS. *3290 NORTHSIDE PKWY. NW, ATLANTA 30327. (404) 233-3500; JOELBRASSERIE.COM*

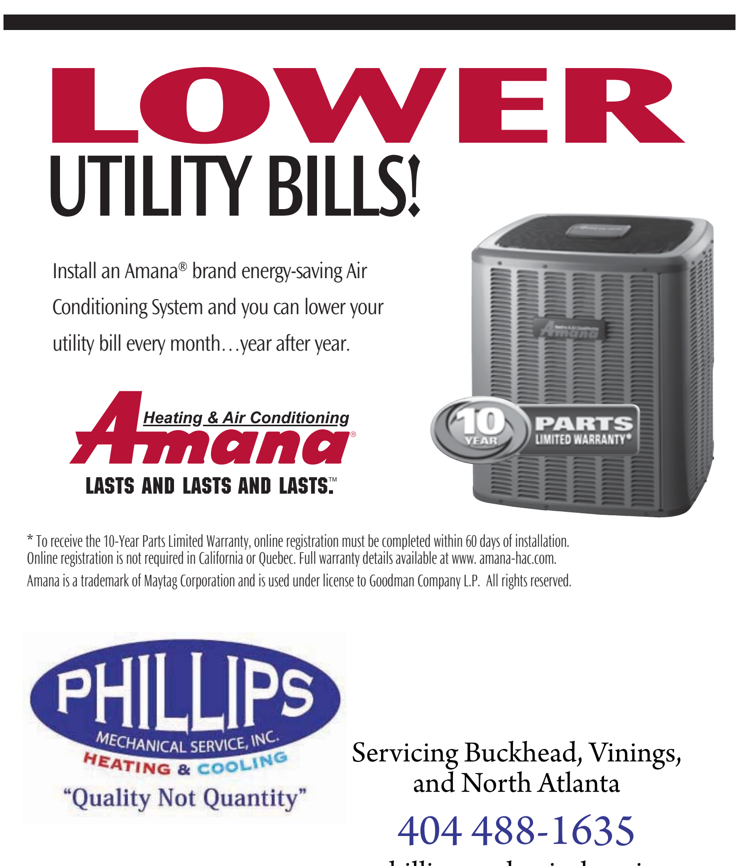
JOIN THE TABLE

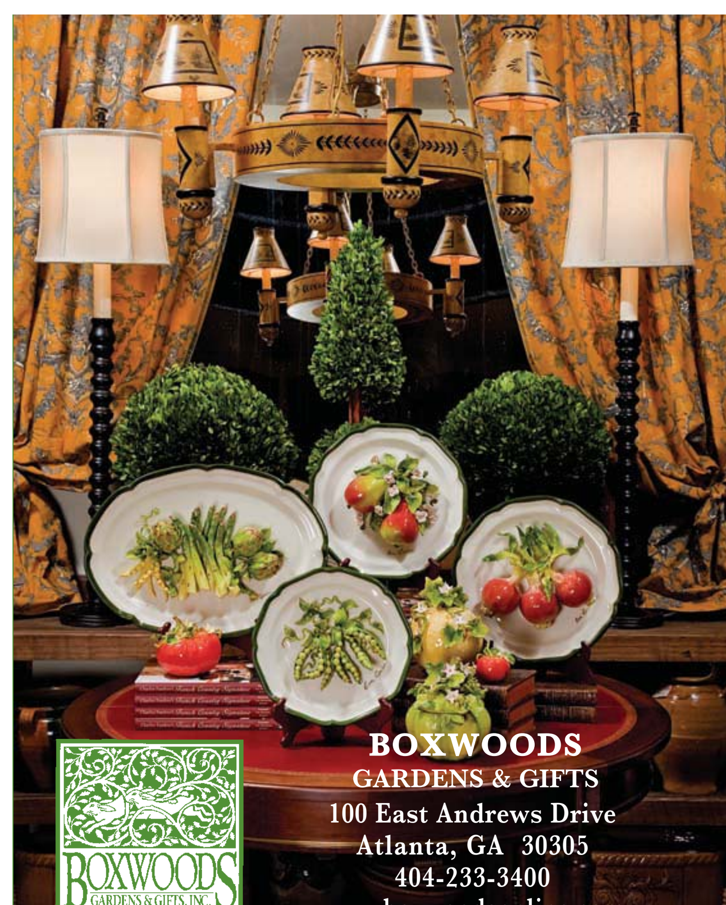
RESTAURANT EUGENE'S CHEF LINTON HOPKINS AND ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER CAITLIN CRAWFORD CONTINUE THEIR MONTHLY CHEESE-TASTING SERIES, "CHEESE EUGENE," FOR DECEMBER'S CELEBRATION OF BLUE. AT THIS SAVORY EVENT, GUESTS CAN INDULGE IN FIVE FEATURED CHEESES, PAIRED WITH FIVE WINES FROM AROUND THE WORLD. *12/19. $35 PER PERSON. RESERVATIONS REQUESTED. 2277 PEACHTREE RD., ATLANTA 30309. (404) 355-0321; RESTAURANTEUGENE.COM*

LOCAL CELEBRITY CHEF AND CO-OWNER OF WOODFIRE GRILL, KEVIN GILLESPIE, WILL CLOSE OUT 2009 WITH A BANG BY PUTTING ON A COOKING DEMONSTRATION AT THE PIEDMONT PARK GREEN MARKET. KNOWN AS MUCH FOR HIS FIERY BEARD AS HIS INNOVATIVE FARM-TO-TABLE DISHES, GILLESPIE IS SURE TO BE A STAR ATTRACTION AT THE MIDTOWN DESTINATION'S FINAL WEEKEND OF THE YEAR. *12/12, 11 A.M. 1071 PIEDMONT AVE., ATLANTA 30309. (404) 876-4024 EXT. 323; PIEDMONTPARK.ORG/PROGRAMS/GREEN_MARKET*

PARISH'S CHEF EXTRAORDINAIRE, NICK MELVIN, HOSTS A COOKING CLASS DUBBED "GEORGIA HOLIDAY CHEER" ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF THIS MONTH, AT WHICH HE'LL SHARE TRICKS OF THE TRADE FOR HOSTING THE PERFECT HOLIDAY PARTY. THE RESTAURANT'S DOWN-HOME NEW ORLEANS VIBE ADDS TO THE APPEAL, AND A COMPLIMENTARY GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE WILL MAKE THE EVENING EVEN MERRIER. *12/8, 6 P.M. $40 PER PERSON, PER CLASS. 240 NORTH HIGHLAND AVE., ATLANTA 30307. (404) 681-4434; PARISHATL.COM*


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WRITTEN BY
KATE ABNEY

(web)
For the latest events around town, visit AtlantaHomesMag.com


Larry Forgard, Largerquist Gallery

GALLERY SHOWS

■ During the holiday season, works by venerated painter and sculptor Larry Forgard will be on view at *Lagerquist Gallery*, his paintings and mixed-media collages taking the stage just in time for gift-giving. The Chicago native and professor of figure drawing is known for his detailed city scenes, simplistic still lifes and figurative studies that vibrate with hazy motion and the brilliance of light's many colors. *12/9-12/23. (404) 261-8273; lagerquistgallery.net*

■ *Gregg Irby Fine Art's* emerging artists garner attention this month at the gallery's seasonal showcase. The 25 artists on the roster present a lively range of fresh and colorful works, their affordable prices making the pieces ideal holiday gifts. *12/1-1/2. (404) 941-9787; greggirbyfineart.com*

■ At *The Signature Shop & Gallery*, the works of Ted Saupe, Ron Meyers and Sun Koo Yuh are on display. Saupe presents cylindrical vessels with small, primitive details while Meyers' glazed pottery depicts forest-dwelling animals and domestic pets in sketchy renditions. Yuh, a Korean-born sculptor, showcases miniature works depicting fearsome, caricatured figures bound together in radial compositions. *12/4-1/9; opening reception 12/4, 5-8 p.m. (404) 237-4426; thesignatureshop.com*

■ Following a nationwide tour during which he's been a guest at prestigious art galleries, top festivals and exclusive dinners, celebrated artist Thomas Arvid returns to Atlanta for a one-man show—his 9th annual showcase at *Vinings Gallery* and the gallery's premier event of the year. Engaging his love for both art and wine, Arvid will present a new series of sculptures called "Cork Envy," created from clay molds cast in resin and then embellished by hand. The artist will also demonstrate his painting technique and personalize special editions of his works. *12/5, 6-9 p.m. and 12/6, 1-4 p.m. (404) 794-7762; viningsgallery.com*

■ The sculptures of Dallas-based artist Erick Swenson will be showcased at *SCAD's Trois Gallery* in an exhibition titled "Caught Captive." Portraying animals in terrifying or painful positions, his provoking—and sometimes disturbing—works have resonated with viewers around the world. *12/7-1/24.* In the nearby ACA Gallery, the latest project by Chinese video and multimedia artist Cao Fei, "NO LAB on Tour," presents a politically charged virtual depiction of a traumatized post-Katrina New Orleans. *12/14-1/31. (404) 815-2931; scadexhibitions.com*

■ Representing some of the finest European art in the city—comprising romantic, Impressionistic and even surrealistic styles—Norcross-based gallery *DE Fine Art* will take some of its top artists' works south, showcasing them at Red Dot Miami. Among the offerings will be Spanish artist Sunol Alvar's illustrative and folkish depictions of the female figure in oils, graphite, watercolors and handmade lithographs, as well as Italian painter Antonio Nunziante's classical landscapes juxtaposed with intricate foreground objects. *12/2-12/6. (770) 300-9733; de-fineart.com*

■ At *Barbara Archer Gallery*, Jerry Siegel's "Images from the Black Belt of the American South" continues in conjunction with Atlanta Celebrates Photography. Documenting the hardships of African American life during some of the most tumultuous years in the journey to civil rights, these stirring photographs reveal close-knit communities coping with extreme circumstances such as poverty, sickness and loss. *Through 12/31. (404) 523-1845; barbaraarcher.com*

■ Westside standard *Bobbe Gillis Gallery's* annual holiday market will take place on the first Saturday of December, offering artisan crafts at affordable prices. To further enhance the merriment, carolers will be on hand and refreshments will be served. At the same time, visitors will be able to view paintings, photography and drawings by more than 20 fine artists. *12/5, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (404) 347-9016; gillisgallery.com*

EVENTS

■ One of the ***Atlanta Botanical Garden's*** premier annual events, "Moonlight & Merriment" invites visitors to stroll the gardens while enjoying holiday music, cozy fire pits and libations at the cash bar. Award-winning artist Kim Schuessler, a headlining abstractionist at Bennett Street Gallery, will also showcase her paintings that highlight the relationship between mother and daughter as well as female friendships; a portion of her proceeds will benefit the Gardens. *$16 for adults; $13 for children and seniors; $8 for members of the Atlanta Botanical Garden. 12/3, 6-10 p.m.* Return to the Gardens the day after Christmas for another evening stroll to celebrate the culmination of a splendid season. *12/26, 5-10 p.m. $15 for adults; $12 for children and seniors. (404) 876-5859; atlantabotanicalgarden.org*

■ The 15th annual ***Virginia Highland Tour of Homes*** welcomes visitors into some of Atlanta's most charming abodes, from Tudor structures to a historic Saint Charles condominium. Food tastings at each of the seven homes, as well as festive décor, will make for an even more joyous occasion. *12/12, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and 12/13, 12-5 p.m. $20 in advance or $25 the day of the tour. vahihometour.org*

MUSEUMS

■ "The Paper Runway," a juried exhibition curated in partnership with Georgia Tech's Robert C. Williams Paper Museum, will conclude its year-long run in the ***T-Gate area of Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport***. Featuring 50 individual works of paper dresses, suits, shoes and other fashions, the collection showcases the versatility of paper as a three-dimensional art form. *Through 1/1.* An exhibition focusing on the ancient craft of Japanese paper, as seen through the eyes of writer Sukey Hughes, is also on view at the museum. *Through 1/29. (404) 894-7840; ipst.gatech.edu*

■ Continuing at ***Fernbank Museum***, "GOLD" explores the cultural and historical contexts of this precious metal, revealing why it is one of the most sought-after minerals in the world. Ancient jewelry and medallions, currency of the ages, ceremonial trinkets and statuettes—as well as the story of North Georgia's own history of gold mining—make this exhibition a must-see. *Through 1/3. (404) 929-6300; fernbankmuseum.org*

THE MANSION ON PEACHTREE



TRULY LIVING WELL is defined by more than being surrounded by fine things. It includes a certain level of personal service and attention to detail from those whose only goal is your happiness.

At The Mansion on Peachtree, Rosewood Hotel & Residence, located in Buckhead, bountiful services include in-home dining, valet parking, housekeeping, automobile services, and absentee homeowners' services, and the utmost in security. For example, if President Obama were to visit Atlanta, The Mansion on Peachtree is the only hotel that meets the presidential security detail requirements. That kind of security and privacy is extended to residents of The Mansion as well.

"Atlanta has confidently found its place on the international map," said Michael Bugg, Sr. VP of Atlanta Fine Homes Sotheby's International Realty, the firm marketing the residences. "We are attracting buyers from our local market, from the suburbs, and especially from people who have homes all over the world and would like to add a home in Atlanta to their list of holdings," said Bugg.

Homes in The Mansion are sold as shells, meaning a blank canvas awaits buyers to transform the space into a truly unique and personal home. While the exterior of The Mansion, designed by Robert A.M. Stern, speaks to the traditional mindset, interiors of current residents have varied widely. For example, a home recently completed by Harrison Design Associates in The Mansion was recently featured in the Modern Atlanta Tour of Homes.

In 2009, The Mansion on Peachtree sold the most expensive penthouse to sell in Atlanta's recent history with a list price of $9.5 million. What attracted the buyer to the building? The prestige of living in a four-star hotel combined with the 360 degree skyline view of Atlanta.

The Mansion on Peachtree is a Rosewood Hotel & Residence, the same family as the infamous Manhattan location of The Carlyle, a Rosewood Hotel, as well as properties throughout the United States and the world. For more informatin on The Mansion on Peachtree residences, please call 404.816.4800 or visit www.mansiononpeachtree.com.

THE RITZ-CARLTON RESIDENCES



SURE TO BECOME one of Atlanta's premier residential addresses, The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Atlanta, Buckhead is located amidst world-class shopping, fine dining and Atlanta's most prestigious neighborhoods. The homes are located on the top 17 floors of a 34-story mixed-use building in the heart of Buckhead, just north of Phipps Plaza. First residences are expected to be delivered in the late spring of 2010.

Nearly two full floors are dedicated to private, owners-only amenities. Formal and casual club rooms with Wifi access and plasma televisions are perfect for game days, while the theatre-style screening room, and private dining/board room provide entertainment space for every occasion. There are also two guest suites for visiting family members or friends.

Outdoors, the heated saline pool includes complimentary towel service, along with grill, fireplaces and televisions, creating your own backyard high in the sky.

The world-renowned Ritz-Carlton will manage the community and all resident services, including 24-hour concierge, chauffeur-driven car (within 15-minute drive), 24-hour valet service, move-in coordination, package delivery and coordination of other services such as personal shopping, in-home meal preparation, and pet sitting.

Well-known Atlanta designer Robert Brown has selected finishes for the interiors of the 129 one-, two- and three-bedroom residences, including seven penthouses. In-home finishes include wide-plank hardwood floors, granite countertops, Viking Pro series kitchen appliances, seven-inch crown molding and solid-core panel doors throughout. Bathrooms feature marble floors, tub surrounds and vanities.

Private tours of model homes can be arranged, and first homes are expected to be delivered in late spring 2010. Sales are by Dorsey Alston Realtors. Call 404.961.3630 to schedule a tour and visit www.TheResidencesAtlanta.com for more information.

The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Atlanta, Buckhead is a development of Post Properties and Novare Group, who have more than 50 years of combined real estate experience.

The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Atlanta, Buckhead are not owned, developed or sold by The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C. 3630 South Tower Residential, LLC uses The Ritz-Carlton marks under a license from The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C.

SOVEREIGN



SOVEREIGN, Atlanta's finest luxury high-rise condominium located at 3344 Peachtree Road/Sovereign in the Buckhead district, recently debuted its newest model home designed by award winning designer Barbara Westbrook of Westbrook Interiors.

Inspired by French interior designer, Jean Michael Frank and renowned Belgian collector and antiques dealer, Axel Vervoodt, Westbrook's model combines cleaned lined upholstery with casual antiques. In addition to the spectacular views, the extensive modern artwork collection provides great focal points throughout the space. The Master bedroom is particularly dramatic with a wall to wall low slung headboard covered in a hot new snake skin fabric mixed with vintage leather pieces. A large low sectional fills the study/guest bedroom while the remaining long wall is covered with bookshelves.

Located on the building's 43rd story, the 4,000 square foot home includes floor to ceiling windows, 12-foot ceilings, hardwood floors, custom cabinetry and natural stone countertops. The home is fitted with 3 spacious bedrooms with 3 spa-style bathrooms, as well as a den and half bath. It also includes a large living room, formal dining room, and a European-style gourmet kitchen.

Sovereign is located in "the heart of Buckhead," on famous Peachtree Road at the intersection of art, architecture and life. World famous restaurants, shopping venues and museums, surround the luxury high-rise condominiums. The 635-foot tower includes more than one-half million square feet of Class A office and retail space crowned by the 82 residences of Sovereign. Homes are offered from $1 million and begin on the building's 28th story affording penthouse-like views from all residences, which range from more than 1,700 square feet to more than 10,000 square feet. Sovereign includes fine dining at Bistro Niko and the services of the distinguished Buckhead Club. As a mixed-use new urban design, Sovereign offers unparalleled private pedestrian and automobile access to major roadways, restaurants, services, shopping and recreation. Residential sales at Sovereign are handled by Atlanta Fine Homes/Sotheby's International Realty. For more information about Sovereign, please call 404-266-3344 or visit www.sovereignbuckhead.com.

ST. REGIS ATLANTA



HIGH RISE LIVING IN ATLANTA'S PREMIER IN-TOWN RESORT. Since its opening in April, The St. Regis Atlanta, located at 88 West Paces Ferry Road, has redefined luxury living in the heart of Buckhead. For more than a century, the St. Regis brand has exemplified bespoke service and timeless sophistication for the world's most discerning travelers. With the opening of The St. Regis Atlanta Residences, these coveted brand signatures are extended to Atlanta's residential community, presenting the opportunity to enjoy private luxury living with the amenities of a world-class hotel, including the legendary St. Regis butler service.

The fifty-three uniquely-designed residences feature private outdoor dining rooms with fireplaces and built-in barbeque grills allowing residents to enjoy the Atlanta skyline through all seasons. Each St. Regis residence has been designed to the owner's exact specifications, creating a community of remarkable homes at one of the world's best addresses. Many of the expansive floor plans are reminiscent of the desirable pre-war buildings found throughout Manhattan – dramatic windows, soaring ceilings and striking views create a new standard of living in the south's most vibrant city.

To complement their unrivaled surroundings, residents have access to the hotel's 40,000 square foot Pool Piazza, a lush outdoor oasis complete with a stunning pool, outdoor bar and café, outdoor fireplace and tranquil waterfall. Culinary excellence is just an elevator ride away at Paces 88, the signature American bistro that was recently named one of the country's Best New Restaurants by Esquire magazine. For cocktail and wine connoisseurs, the elegant Wine Room and sumptuous St. Regis Bar offer one of the finest wine and cocktail lists in the city. Wine Director Hervé Pennequin, who received honors in 2004 as one of the three top sommeliers in the world, has assembled a superb list of more than 520 wines including 60 selections available by the glass.

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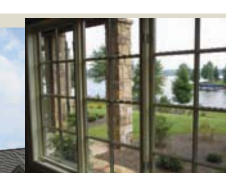
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local luxuries

COME ON IN. This month's issue features the height of Atlanta's luxurious places, people and things; but an underlying concept of invitation runs deep in this lavishness. Interior designer *BOB BROWN* attracts Atlantans to a sky-high condominium at The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Atlanta, Buckhead with his use of rich, refined colors saturated with sumptuousness, creating an environment you just want to fall into. At Serenbe's Southern Chef Series, *NATHALIE DUPREE* and *MARIE NYGREN* teach us that good flavors are the best calling card for a memorable meal, made even better by a truly gorgeous setting. But luxury is something that can be comfortable, too. At a Tudor-style house by designers *WILL HUFF* and *HEATHER DEWBERRY* and architect *CHARLES HEYDT*, classic, cozy elements coax us to enjoy the plush fabrics and masterful architecture at every turn, inviting us, above all, to welcome the extraordinary.


LANVIN
RODIN



THE LUXURY OF

color

AT THE RITZ-CARLTON RESIDENCES, ATLANTA, BUCKHEAD, DESIGNER BOB BROWN IMPARTS ELEGANCE WITH A RICH PALETTE

WRITTEN BY **HEATHER J. PAPER**
PHOTOGRAPHED BY **ERICA GEORGE DINES**
PRODUCED BY **CLINTON SMITH**

A REGAL TOUCH

A rich shade of purple is the signature of this chic condominium, wrapping not only the walls and ceiling but jumping onto the drapery and sofa, too. In fact, strong solids are the rule throughout these living quarters. One exception? The Donghia ikat fabric used for pillows that nestle into a pair of green armchairs. "I'm not much about prints lately," says designer Bob Brown, "but this Donghia fabric is *really* beautiful."

CLASSIC LINES & FRESH HUES

Anchored by a short sofa that's a perfect fit for a built-in alcove, this secondary seating group is the more intimate of the two. Part of its charm lies in the pieces themselves—from the chocolate brown leather chair to its tufted-back orange counterpart to the clean-lined cocktail table in between—which, like the art on the walls, look as though they've been collected over time.






YVES SAINT LAURENT STYLE



CASUAL CHIC

A double-pedestal dining table is surrounded by Baker chairs and a more casual, custom bench, infusing the area with informality and livability, too. ***opposite*** **The skirted table in the foyer appears to have been the impetus for the entire color scheme. But not so, says Brown. "We found that fabric after the fact, once we'd installed everything else. The wooden table [beneath the skirt] needed to be softened a little bit—and we just backed into this fabric."**

Taking a cue from its dramatic views, Bob Brown treated the interiors of this condominium in the same way. The sweeping vistas from the 20th floor of The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Atlanta, Buckhead—of downtown, Stone Mountain and beyond—are nothing short of breathtaking. But Brown's deft hand with the design of this sky-high retreat is all that and more.

Upon entering the foyer, you're met by a rich purple hue—which doesn't read as purple at all but, instead, a striking neutral. "The color purple felt rich and inviting at the same time," says Brown. "It just felt good."

It's the way in which he used the color, however, that's both bold and brilliant. The jewel tone flows from the entry into the main living area, covering not only the walls but the trim and ceilings, too. Yes, the approach makes a strong fashion statement. But it also allows various ceiling heights to blend quietly into the background and read as one.

Brown's signature style is evident throughout the residence, perhaps nowhere more so than in the living/dining area. "I tried to get away from 'this side is the living room and that side is the dining room.' Had I done that, you could have dinner for 12, but room for only four people to sit down! That just doesn't make sense—and people don't live like that, really."

His solution? To position a dining table between two conversation groups. "You can certainly have a formal dinner or set up a buffet," he points out. "And I used flexible seating pieces that can be



A PERSONAL OASIS

Brown started with two adjacent bedrooms and baths, exploding them into one grand master suite. This sitting area is the perfect place to read and relax, watch TV, even share a quiet cocktail at the end of the day, courtesy of the bar behind the armoire doors.





METALLICS STRIKE IT RICH

Various shades of bronze envelop the master suite, creating an appropriately peaceful atmosphere. Taking center stage is a dramatic four-poster, from Brown's soon-to-be-released collection for Holland & Company. On either side of the bed, bronze chests—similar in hue to the toile wallpaper—blend quietly into the backdrop. "We used a lot of tricks to make the space feel bigger," says the designer, "especially with mirrors and furniture placement."





"I don't like bedrooms to have a lot of stimulating color. I think they should be sanctuaries." – BOB BROWN

moved around. There are a couple of chairs, for instance, that can easily come in and out."

The color palette for the main living area, says Brown, started out as purple and green with a touch of camel. "Originally we didn't have the orange as part of the plan, but when we were out shopping we felt like we needed to punch it up a little bit. So we just kept going with those jewel tones."

In the master suite, however, color takes a dramatic turn. "I don't like bedrooms to have a lot of stimulating color. I think they should be sanctuaries," the designer says. "I can't tell you the last time that I used wallpaper—especially a toile—but this just felt right. We were trying to mix old and new, traditional and not-so-traditional. And I loved the bronzey color."

And when the sumptuous color scheme isn't grabbing your attention, the masterful space planning is. Brown started with two adjacent bedrooms and baths, exploding them into one grand master suite. From the square footage, he carved out a sleeping spot and sitting room as well as his-and-hers closets and baths. The resulting retreat is one you'd be hard-pressed to ever want to leave.

Indeed, this condominium is the embodiment of puttin' on the ritz. **SEE RESOURCES, BACK OF BOOK.**



Written by **Kate Abney** Photographed by **Erica George Dines**
Produced by **Rachel Cardina Lasserre** Floral design by **Mark & Scott**



THE LUXURY OF

comfort

A FAMILY HOME COMBINES CLASSIC TUDOR CHARMS WITH STYLISH UPDATES AND PERSONAL TOUCHES



In the dining room, designers Will Huff and Heather Dewberry reserved the most precious fabrics for the host and hostess chairs, and the backs of the others, keeping the setting child-friendly but still elegant enough for adults. A Grandfather clock stands sentry at one end of the room, leading the eye right up to the impressive beamed ceiling. *opposite* An architectural alcove created by residential designer Charles Heydt gives this room character, further enhanced by soft, floor-sweeping draperies on either side. A pair of slipper chairs and a round Charles Fradin table make this a great seating area at parties, notes Huff. "It's nice to have a place to set down a drink." *below opposite* Throughout the house, collections of porcelain, creamware and drabware speak to the personal tastes of the owners, lending the authentic feel of items amassed over time. *far right* In just one example of this home's grand, yet unfussy, landscape design, Graham Pittman trained ivy to grow over the home's facade for an authentic English look. Still, it doesn't undermine the structure's great bones, like the intricate brick and stonework implemented by Heydt.







To make a house a home requires much more than a strong foundation and beautiful furnishings; it must be a touchstone for those who live within. But rarely does a home, no matter its presence, resonate with significance for all involved in its making. Not so with a certain English Tudor in Buckhead.

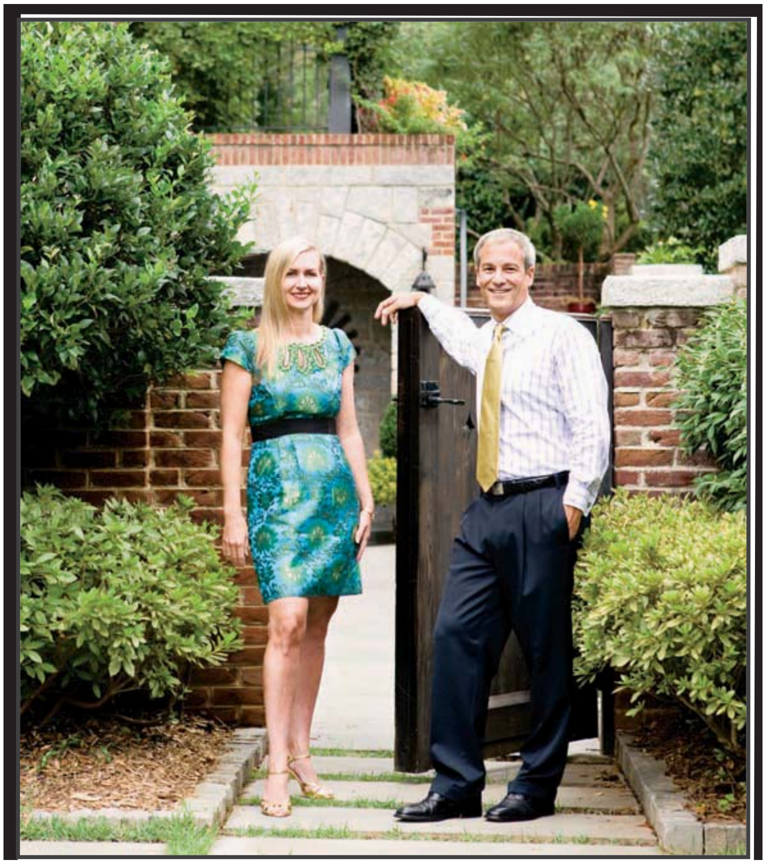
The home that Robin Loudermilk—successor to Aaron's Inc., the windfall success of a rental business begun in 1955 by his father, Charles—shares with his wife, Frances, and their three children, encompasses just that. Since taking the reins of the company two years ago, Robin has helmed it with the same benevolent spirit as his civic-minded father, likewise serving the community through his work as chairman of the Buckhead Alliance. As a result, the Loudermilks often host charitable events. So naturally, their home needed to be well-suited for entertaining, while also laid-back and comfortable for the close-knit family.

The designers who so deftly furnished it, Will Huff and Heather Dewberry, met while working for legendary designer Dan Carithers,



The living room began as a very neutral space, its pecky cypress ceilings stained a warm brown rather than the traditional beach-y gray; even decorative elements were in soft shades of caramel and cream. But when the Loudermilks decided to infuse the space with a more lively feeling, Huff and Dewberry reupholstered several pieces in fresh shades of blue, with collections of blue-and-white porcelain adding character to the room. *opposite* Heydt integrated the names of the Loudermilks' three children into a picket design on the stairwell, artfully incorporating three interlocking C's with back-to-back L's representing their surname.





Designers Heather Dewberry and Will Huff take great pride in the Loudermilk home. It was one of their first big projects together and, in many ways, serves as a timeline of their work. *below* The study, complete with a gentleman's desk and swiveling armchairs, is one of the most used rooms in the home—and for good reason. "When we were collecting books for the library, we couldn't just buy decorative ones," Dewberry explains. "Robin said, 'I don't want to open up a book and have it be in some foreign language.'" Thus, the designers worked with Robin to choose those that best suited his interests. *opposite* The family room's chocolate brown print was an instant favorite, but the designers were hesitant to use it for window treatments; because there are so many windows, it would have been too busy. Instead, they used the fabric to upholster a custom screen, bringing color and pattern into the space without overpowering the room.



joining forces nine years ago to form their own firm, Huff-Dewberry LLC. The Loudermilk project was their first together from the ground up yet, remarkably, eight years later, it still feels as fresh as the day it was started.

"When we signed on, we were all young, and our firm was so young," notes Dewberry. "I think Frances wanted to work with someone who she felt had fresh ideas." From the outset, the project was a meeting of the minds. While the construction of the new home slowly came together, most of the interior design decisions were made in a snap—including all fabric selections, which were made in just an hour and a half.

"They walked in and loved it all," Huff recalls of the design team's original presentations. "Considering how many rooms were in the home, it was unreal!"

For Charles Heydt, partner in the residential design firm of Pak Heydt & Associates, it was just as personal an undertaking. Like many of his projects, it was a culmination of ideas stowed away for just the right home—and just the right family. The crowning feature of the home's facade, its alternating-wood chevron door, was an adaptation of one such idea. "I found a drawing for a similar painted-finish door in a book years ago," the architect explains. "I always liked it and knew that, one day, it would be appropriate."

For the granite coursework on the home's exterior, he took a cue from a historic Tudor-style cottage he'd admired in Maine's Acadia National Park. Regional materials, like the local granite and reddish brick the color of Georgia clay, imbue the home with a local feeling that is still quintessentially Tudor. Even the expansive leaded-glass windows have been updated with a slight pastel tint to give the interiors a soft glow.

"We're bringing modern sensibilities into play," Heydt explains. "We're thinking about the family and how they like to live, as well as their modern desire for light—something that wasn't common in Tudor structures when leaded glass for windows was more expensive."

Huff and Dewberry added lightness to the project with equal fervor. "The Loudermilks are very subtle people," notes Dewberry. "They didn't want a whole lot of color, but we still wanted to make it bright and interesting." In concert with the architect, they selected pale, rugged stones for the entryway floor to quiet the scheme, while a border of



this page **The second-story porch is essential to the Loudermilks' lifestyle. "When they have cocktail parties, people sort of wander in and out on the main floor, and the bar opens up to this space, making it great for entertaining," says Huff. There was also an advantage to installing the porch at this high elevation. Its position above the "mosquito line" negated the need for a screened-in enclosure, so the outdoor room remains both airy and light.** *opposite* **Playing off the coffered ceilings found throughout the house, the breakfast room floor features terra cotta tiles set within crisscrossing bands of wood, lending a divinely rustic texture. Because this is where the children dine most, the designers covered the seats of the chairs with pleather, rendering them spill-proof.** *far right and bottom right* **A view of the home's exterior reveals the charms of this home's landscape design. "[Landscape architect Graham Pittman] did a lovely job softening the grounds of the house to give the Loudermilks the privacy they enjoy," notes Dewberry. "There's no grass, and a path runs through it. You feel as though you're in a woodsy, botanical garden. It looks overgrown and wonderful—like an English country house would."**









warm wood grounds the space and mirrors the beauty of the nearby coffered ceiling panels. Neutral fabrics also keep things light, while plaster walls with a hand-waxed finish impart a luminous glow.

Since the original installation, the designers have layered the look with even more personal touches—including exquisite collections of porcelain and drabware plus a pair of painted demilune commodes commissioned following a family trip to Italy that incorporate photographs taken throughout their travels.

For the Loudermilks, the well-scaled rooms and aptly chosen antiques create an atmosphere that not only *feels* lived in—it is. But the true mark of this home's success is the feeling the designers get each time they return with another armload of treasures.

"When I walk back into this house, I'm amazed that it still feels so fresh, knowing that a good majority of it was completed so long ago," Dewberry says. "Hopefully, it speaks to the timelessness of what we do. Will and I work in a lot of different styles, and a lot of different colors, but I hope that what we do is timeless." **SEE RESOURCES, BACK OF BOOK.**





THE LUXURY OF

food & friendship

SENIOR EDITOR AT LARGE HEATHER J. PAPER STEPS INTO THE KITCHEN WITH TWO CELEBRATED COOKS WHO HAVE MASTERED THE ART OF SOUTHERN CUISINE

WRITTEN BY **HEATHER J. PAPER** PHOTOGRAPHED BY **DAVID CHRISTENSEN**





above left The ease with which Nathalie Dupree and Marie Nygren work side-by-side is, no doubt, a result of their longtime friendship. *above right* Even something as simple as an arugula salad is a masterpiece at the hand of Dupree. *opposite* A minimalistic menu—comprising a vegetable salad, an onion tart and an arugula salad—belies the beautifully layered flavors apparent in all three dishes.

I couldn't have been more in awe had I been granted an audience by royalty. Then again, I was in the presence of culinary queens. The occasion was the launch of Serenbe's Southern Chef Series, with Nathalie Dupree teaching an intimate group. A cookbook author, James Beard winner and TV host (some 300 of her shows have aired on PBS, The Learning Channel and Food Network), this gastronomic icon was there to share her insights on "Mastering the Art of Southern Cooking."








opposite, clockwise from top left **Marking the launch of Serenbe's Southern Chef Series, this culinary lesson—led by Nathalie Dupree—featured approachable, anyone-can-make-this fare. Marie Nygren completes the day's dessert, a chocolate snowball, with piped rosettes of whipped cream. Just as affable as they are fêted, Dupree and Nygren made the day's session seem more like a private party than a teaching venue. Dupree touts the chocolate snowball as more than an impressive-looking dessert; it's also a great put-it-together-at-the-last-minute dish.**

But any foodie will tell you that even the best chef requires a skillful assistant. And who better to step up to the plate than Marie Nygren? Not only is she the proprietress of The Farmhouse at the Inn at Serenbe; as it turns out, the two have been friends for 27 years—dating back to the time when Marie's mother, Margaret Lupo of Mary Mac's tea room, was a guest on one of Nathalie's shows.

Watching the two of them is equal parts education and entertainment. Working side-by-side, Marie seamlessly picks up the preparation of a dish where Nathalie leaves off. And Nathalie is just as likely to finish a sentence that Marie has started. In short, it's so much more than your run-of-the-mill cooking class. It's more like a private party, where laughter and fond memories are just as important as recipes and techniques.

On this particular day, no less than four dishes were part of the lesson plan—a vegetable salad, an onion tart, an arugula salad and, for dessert, a chocolate snowball. First up was the vegetable salad, made quite simply with celery and kalamata olives. Nathalie was quick to point out that "so many people don't understand what a good vegetable salad is—and this is delicious." She was right. The flavors infused into this dish took two basic ingredients to an entirely new level.

The arugula salad, too, further proved Nathalie's point that "using everything for flavor is the basis of good cooking." When making this salad ahead of time, she advises, "put dried fruits, like cherries, and things like sliced pears in the vinegar you'll be using to make the salad dressing. When you're ready to serve, take out the solids with a slotted spoon and use the remaining vinegar to dress the salad. The dressing will have all that 'goodness' in it. Any time you can keep every bit of flavor, rather than throwing any of it away, that makes everything better."

But it was the caramelized onions being sautéed on the stove that filled the kitchen with savory aromas, making my mouth water from the moment I walked through the door. Once cooked to the perfect shade of dark brown, Nathalie used them to assemble an onion tart in keeping with the day's theme—simple but scrumptious. "There's no reason you can't use a store-bought pie crust," she says, characteristically using every opportunity to share a tip, trick or technique. "And sprinkle the tart with whatever cheese you have in the house—goat cheese, gruyere or parmesan reggianno is nice. Then top it with chopped kalamata olives and a few herbs."

For the grand finale, Nathalie and Marie whipped up a chocolate snowball—an impressive-looking dessert. "This is a great put-it-together-at-the-last-minute dish," says Nathalie, exuding anyone-can-do-this confidence. "You just melt chocolate with sugar and water, add butter and eggs, then throw it in a Pyrex bowl lined with aluminum foil and bake for half an hour. Then refrigerate it so it solidifies and decorate it with whipping cream."

"Everyone should have a couple of chocolate snowballs in the freezer," she adds. "Then, if someone calls and says they're coming over, you've got all this!"

Any cook that has learned at the hand of Nathalie Dupree and Marie Nygren has "all this," too.

THE SECOND SOUTHERN CHEFS SERIES WILL FEATURE CHEF LINTON HOPKINS OF RESTAURANT EUGENE AND HOLEMAN & FINCH, AND ONE OF *FOOD & WINE*'S BEST CHEFS FOR 2009 THIS WINTER. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT NYGREN'S BLOG, SERENBE STYLE & SOUL, WHERE SHE REGULARLY POSTS RECIPES, PHOTOS AND REMINISCENCES. SERENBESTYLEANDSOUL.BLOGSPOT.COM

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RESOURCES

DEC.09 *(where to find it)*

(the luxury of color)

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(the luxury of comfort)

INTERIOR DESIGN Will Huff & Heather Dewberry, Huff-Dewberry, LLC. 2300 Peachtree Rd. NW, Suite B-201, Atlanta 30309. (404) 355-7600; huffdewberry.com ARCHITECTURE Charles Heydt, Pak-Heydt & Associates, 345 Peachtree Hills Ave. NE, Suite 500, Atlanta 30305. (404) 231-3195; pakheydt.com LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE E. Graham Pittman, E. Graham Pittman & Associates, 1009 Afton Way, Smyrna 30080. (770) 480-9814; eg-pittman.com **PAGES 54-55:** ANTIQUE CONSOLE Parc Monceau Fine Antiques & Accessories WOODEN LAMPS Edgar-Reeves Lighting & Antiques DIAMOND-ETCHED BELL LANTERN Edgar-Reeves Lighting & Antiques. PAIR OF BENCHES UNDER CONSOLE John C. Ladky Antiques PAISLEY FABRIC ON BENCHES Lee Jofa through Holland & Company, ADAC ANTIQUE OCTAGONAL VENETIAN MIRROR Parc Monceau DRAWBARE Interiors Market **PAGES 56-57:** WINDOW TREATMENT FABRIC Scancelli WOVEN FABRIC ON HOST CHAIRS AND SIDE CHAIRS Scalamandré CHINOISERIE CHEST ON STAND Parc Monceau CISTERN ON TOP OF CHEST Parc Monceau COLLECTION OF 19TH CENTURY ENGLISH PORCELAIN WITH GRECIAN MOTIF Parc Monceau PAINTED BRACKETS Tom Hayes & Associates/Toby West, Ltd. OUSHAK RUG Moattar Ltd. DINING TABLE New Classics, Ainsworth-Noah DINING CHAIRS Smith Grubbs & Associates WOVEN DAMASK ON DINING CHAIRS Scalamandré SOLID FABRIC ON DINING SIDE CHAIRS Jim Thompson VELVET STRIPE ON BACKS OF DINING SIDE CHAIRS Brunschwig & Fils EMPIRE CHANDELIER Jane Marsden Antiques 19TH-CENTURY FRENCH PROVENCIAL CLOCK Parc Monceau DEMILUNE CABINETS AND CUSTOM FRAMED ANTIQUE PRINTS Tom Hayes & Associates/Toby West, Ltd. 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ANTIQUE BOUILLOTTE TABLE Jane Marsden Antiques BLUE DOUBLE-GOURD LAMPS Edgar-Reeves Lighting & Antiques ANTIQUE IRON FIRESCREEN AND TOOLS Parc Monceau CHINOISERIE FLOOR LAMP Edgar-Reeves RATCHET-ARM SOFA Edward-Ferrell FABRIC ON SOFA Brunschwig & Fils FABRIC ON CLUB CHAIRS Cowtan & Tout with Samuel & Sons trim LOUIS XIV CARVED WALNUT ARMCHAIRS Jane Marsden Antiques FABRIC ON ARMCHAIRS Clarence House PAINTED BEECHWOOD DIRECTOIRE-STYLE BENCH IN FRONT OF FIREPLACE Travis & Company STRIPED SILK FABRIC ON BENCH Jim Thompson BLUE-AND-WHITE PORCELAIN Jane Marsden Antiques WHITE PAINTED BRACKETS Tom Hayes & Associates/Toby West, Ltd. PAINTED TOLE CLOCK Parc Monceau FRAMED BLUE-AND-WHITE TILES Swan Antiques ANTIQUE MANTEL Bo Childs (Please confirm with Pak Heydt) PAINTING OF CITY "Uptown II" by Sandra Selesnick, through Lagerquist Gallery **PAGE 59:** LOUIS XVI-STYLE SETTEE Jane Marsden Antiques, covered in Jim Thompson fabric with Samuel & Sons trim SETTEE PILLOW covered in Larsen fabric DIAMOND MIRROR Interiors Market MIDCENTURY THREE-TIERED TABLES WITH MARBLE TOPS Interiors Market ANTIQUE CRYSTAL CANDLESTICKS AS LAMPS Parc Monceau ANTIQUE FRENCH IRON CHANDELIER Architectural Accents CONTEMPORARY FIGURES ON PAPER BY AUGUSTE GARUFI Bill Lowe Gallery **PAGE 60:** WINDOW TREATMENT FABRIC Rose Cumming, Ltd., with Brunschwig & Fils wooden bed fringe OUSHAK RUG Bayman rug from Moattar Ltd. CLUB CHAIRS ON SWIVEL BASES Mack Southern Design FABRIC ON CLUB CHAIRS Hinson & Co. PILLOW FABRIC IN CLUB CHAIRS Elizabeth Eakins Cotton Inc. ANTIQUE BOX ON STAND BETWEEN CLUB CHAIRS Jane Marsden Antiques CUSTOM OTTOMANS Mack Southern Design FABRIC ON OTTOMANS Cowtan & Tout CLUB FENDER IN FRONT OF FIREPLACE Parc Monceau FLOOR LAMP Circa Lighting ANTIQUE BRASS BARLEY TWIST CANDLESTICK LAMP ON ONYX BASE Joseph Konrad BROWN/CREAM CHECK PILLOW FABRIC (ON CHAIR IN WINDOW) Cowtan & Tout **PAGE 61:** Window Treatment Fabric Pindler & Pindler with Scalamandré trim ANTIQUE WALNUT SIDE TABLE Travis & Company CUSTOM UPHOLSTERED SCREEN Travers fabric STRIPED CHAIR Edward Ferrell FABRIC ON STRIPED CHAIR Cowtan & Tout GREEN GEOMETRIC PILLOW IN STRIPED CHAIR Clarence House fabric RED GEOMETRIC CLUB CHAIRS Baker FABRIC ON RED CLUB CHAIRS Samarcand UPHOLSTERED OTTOMAN Smith Grubbs & Associates FABRIC ON OTTOMAN Lee Jofa Sofa Fabric Larsen CHANDELIER Parc Monceau STARBURST MIRROR Parc Monceau **PAGE 62:** WICKER CHAIRS Mainly Baskets FABRIC ON CHAIR SEAT CUSHIONS Perennials/Editions RED VASES International Art Properties **PAGE 63:** WINDOW TREATMENT FABRIC Pindler & Pindler with Samuel & Sons trim IRON CHANDELIER Edgar-Reeves FAIENCE TUREEN Travis & Company CHAIRS Smith Grubbs & Associates FABRIC ON BACKS OF CHAIRS Pierre Frey STRIPED FABRIC ON BACKS OF CHAIRS Schumacher DINING TABLE The Gables Antiques ALL CUSTOM WINDOW TREATMENTS by Cox Design Consultants CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY & RE-UPHOLSTERY by Mack Southern Design, 1351 Oakbrook Dr., Suite 150, Norcross 30093. (770) 729-0990; macksoutherndesign.com

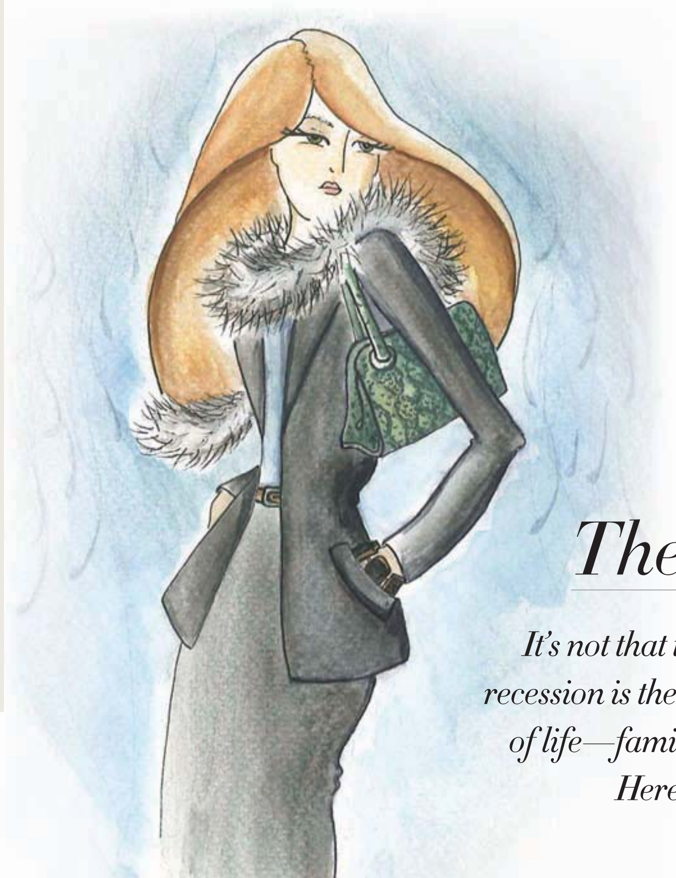
WEB LINKS & AD INDEX

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The New LUXURY

It's not that times of utter austerity are upon on us, but this recession is the perfect opportunity to celebrate the real luxuries of life—family, friends, pets and that simplest of feelings, joy. Here's what brings joy to local tastemakers.

INSIDE STORY

I was in the midst of a recent design crisis and called brother Billy, panting with fear. But he stopped my hyperventilation with an excellent question: "Do you remember the moment when we called and told you Daddy had died?" "Yes," I answered, coming up for air. "And when Peach Blossom died?" he continued. "Did you honestly give a crap about some fabric or a lampshade or even a TV show? What went through your mind?" Nothing, hysteria, everything. My world had collapsed. And he was right. When Blossom died, I raced out and bought a new puppy. She may not be the Jimmy Choo shoes I wanted or the new rabbit fur coat from eBay (for a mere 186 bucks), but she sleeps right on top of me and my new Manuel Canovas coverlet, and gives Anabelle and me so much pleasure. I could live in a cardboard box outside ADAC and be happy as a clam—because I am.

KEITH SUMMEROUR "The new luxury for me is smelling wood burning in the outdoor fireplace with my wool cap pulled over my ears." —SUMMEROUR IS THE OWNER OF SUMMEROUR & ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS. SUMMEROUR.NET

ERICA GEORGE DINES "Luxury to me is getting to spend quality time with my husband and two daughters in our new kitchen." —DINES IS A WELL-KNOWN FASHION AND INTERIORS PHOTOGRAPHER. ERICAGEORGEDINES.COM

BETH WEBB "Due to the downturn, my firm actually had some surplus time on its hands. As a result, I found that I was able to accept invitations for long, languishing lunches with dear friends, spend quality time with my children and actually find time to have dinner parties for eight—on a weeknight, no less! My workout was a possibility once more. I even worked in a 10-day trip to Europe ... guilt free! Now, as the tide has turned and life has returned to some semblance of normalcy, I'm back to take-out and the drive-through. Once again, all this only proves that time is, indeed, the greatest luxury." —WEBB'S DESIGN FIRM IS BETH WEBB INTERIORS. BETHWEBB.COM

JIM HOWARD "Having better rooms is not only about better furniture or better objects; it's about the details that are the stuff dreams are made of. Luxury is about habitable rooms with nothing being too perfect or contrived." —HOWARD IS THE OWNER OF MRS. HOWARD AND MAX & COMPANY, AS WELL AS HIS OWN DESIGN FIRM, JAMES MICHAEL HOWARD INC. JAMESMICHAELHOWARD.COM

